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Town of Louisa
Town Council Monthly Meeting
February 17, 2026

Present: Ashley Michael, Mayor;
Vicky Harte, Vice-Mayor;
Danny Crawford, Roger Henry, Sylvia Rigsby,
John J. Purcell IV Council members;
Jeff Gore, Legal Counsel.

Also in Attendance: Stuart Turille, Town Manager;
Franchesca Mall-Padilla, Treasurer;
Anthony Larry, Superintendent of Public Works
Stephanie Dorman, Clerk;
Martin Nachtman, Chief of Police.

**All copies, including reports, handouts, and documents
can be found following the minutes.**

Mayor Michael called the Louisa Town Council Meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Vice Mayor Henry led the Invocation as well as the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Agenda Amendments:

- Move Closed Session to item IV.
- Add "Appointments" as Item V.
- Move Old Business to item VI.
- Move New Business to item VII.
- Add "Recruitment and Retention Ordinance" to Old Business.
- Add "LCWA Manual Bill" to Old Business.
- Add "Discussion on 420 W. Main Street" to New Business.

1 Motion to approve agenda as amended.

2 Motion made by Rigsby, Seconded by Purcell.

3 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

4 **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

5 **May 20, 2025, Minutes**

6 Staff will review these minutes and will present revised minutes at the March meeting.

7 These minutes will be removed from the Consent Agenda and no action will be taken on
8 these at this time.

9 **January 20, 2025 Minutes:**

10 Removal of line 23 on page two.

11 **January 24, 2025 Minutes:**

12 No edits.

13 Motion to approve January 20th and January 24th minutes as amended.

14 Motion made by Rigsby, Seconded by Henry.

15 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

16 **Accounts and Appropriations:**

17 Council will discuss the VML bill with the corresponding agenda item.

18 Motion to approve the accounts and appropriations, excluding the VML bill.

19 Motion made by Henry, Seconded by Harte.

20 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

21 **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

22 No public comments.

23 **CLOSED SESSION:**

24 In accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1) Code of Virginia, Town Council convene in
25 closed session to discuss personnel matters regarding consideration of candidates for
26 appointment to the Economic Development Authority.

27

28 Motion to convene into closed session.

1 Motion made by Harte, Seconded by Rigsby.

2 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

3

4 **CERTIFICATION:**

5 Voting to certify closed session: Crawford, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

6 Voting Absentia: Harte

7 **Appointments:**

8 Motion to appoint Margaret Molina, Matthew Kersey, and Pamela Quarles to the EDA.

9 Motion made by Purcell, Seconded by Rigsby.

10 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

11 **OLD BUSINESS:**

12 **1. Recruitment and Retention Ordinance**

13 The Town Manager and Chief of Police advised the Council of the need for a
14 Recruitment and Retention Ordinance. The Chief advised Council that there has been
15 an increase in interest since the pay band was increased.

16

17 Motion to approve the Ordinance as presented.

18 Motion made by Purcell, Seconded by Crawford.

19 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

20

21 **2. Discussion and Action: Adoption of Annual Bylaws**

22

23 Council Member Harte and the Town Attorney discussed the sentence structure in
24 Section 7.1. The addition of ruminates should clarify this section.

25

26 Motion to adopt the Bylaws.

27 Motion made by Harte, Seconded by Henry.

28 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

29 **NEW BUSINESS:**

30 1. Discussion on 420 W. Main Street

1 The Town Manager and a representative for the contractor, Ryan Staudinger, advised
2 that there is a leak on West Main Street that requires immediate repair due to
3 systemic failure and significant age.

4
5 Council, Town Manager, and Mr. Staudinger discussed the cost and different
6 installation options.

7
8 Motion for authorization of up to 600 feet of piping installation, with a total
9 expenditure amount up to \$75,000.00, appropriated from the water funds reserve.

10
11 Motion made by Harte, Seconded by Henry.

12 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

13
14 **OLD BUSINESS:**

15 **3. Discussion and Action: VML Contract**

16 The Town Manager and VML representative, Tina Staples, discussed the contract
17 currently in place with the Town. Ms. Staples advised Council that her
18 understanding of the engagement was limited to the scope of work she had been
19 contracted to perform. She stated that she was not familiar with the specific cost
20 terms of the agreement and expressed surprise upon seeing the matter listed as an
21 agenda item for Council consideration.

22
23 The Town Manager acknowledged that he had underestimated both the amount of
24 work required and the associated costs of the engagement. Council engaged in
25 discussion with the Town Manager regarding the financial aspects of the contract,
26 specifically clarifying whether the amount being discussed represented additional
27 funds beyond what had previously been approved or whether it reflected the total
28 project cost.

29
30 Council Member Purcell would like acknowledgement from VML of why the
31 contracted amount was exceeded.

32
33 Motion to approve the amended contract with the total expenditure amount of
34 \$40,000.00, allocated from the general fund.

35
36 Motion made by Rigsby, Seconded by Purcell.

37 Voting For: Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

1 Voting Against: Crawford.

2

3 Motion for approval of VML line-item payment from the Accounts and
4 Appropriations list.

5

6 Motion made by Purcell, Seconded by Rigsby.

7 Voting For: Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

8 Voting Against: Crawford.

9

10 **4. Discussion: FY26-27 Budget**

11

12 The Town Manager presented the items discussed at the strategic meeting in January,
13 No action was taken on this item.

14

15 **5. LCWA Manual Bill**

16 The Town Manager explained to Council why the Town received a bill for the LCWA
17 Manual and that a check was sent after the Treasurer sent Council a clarification email.

18

19 The Town Manager and Council discussed whether this item was budgeted for and if this has
20 been approved.

21

22 Motion to approve the LCWA Manual costs.

23

24 Motion made by Henry, Seconded by Rigsby.

25 Voting For: Crawford, Harte, Henry, Purcell, Rigsby.

26

27 **NEW BUSINESS:**

28 **2. Discussion and Action: Addition of Downtown Events Line Item in the Budget**

29

30 This item was tabled to the March meeting due to time constraints.

31

32

33 **COMMENTS BY MEMBERS OF TOWN COUNCIL:**

34 Comments were not made due to time constraints.

35 **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1 Council Member Crawford would like to relinquish being the chair to the Legal Committee to
2 Council Member Harte.

3 **STAFF REPORTS:**

4 Written staff reports were accepted due to time constraints.

5 **ADJOURNMENT**

6 Motion to adjourn.

7 Motion made by Crawford, Seconded by Henry.

8 All in favor.

9 Council adjourned at 10:29 PM.

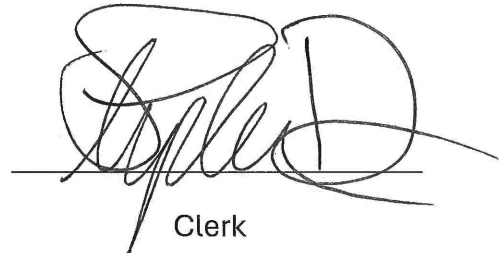
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12

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ashley B. Harte", written over a horizontal line.

Mayor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephanie D.", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk

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